

# *Sketch*

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## Blind Weaver

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# Blind Weaver

Marlene F. Corder

## **Abstract**

I build a pattern with my life, Strung long ago, the weaving pattern fixed in heddle-chains of wire...

# Blind Weaver

*by*  
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I build a pattern with my life,  
Strung long ago, the weaving pattern fixed in heddle-chains of  
wire.

New yarns I add, change color, tension.

I vary the pattern slightly with my feet —  
Marriage, child birth, equinox.  
Yesterday's pattern retreating as the warp beam turns.

Then someone asks about the pattern  
And my fingers falter.  
What pedal am I on —  
What repeat —  
Keep the rhythm  
    Beat, Beat, Beat.

Clean sheds with no snagged strands,  
New shuttles wound before the old one empties.

At last the ends cut off, the pattern whole:  
Clotted menstrual reds;  
Brisk linen marching down the piece,  
Decisive days and knowing why I weave;  
Maternal roving teased soft, greying at the edges;  
Rough homespun wool still holding nettles  
And the smell of sheep;  
Fine Persian yarns, melon and aubergine;  
Parental warps broken and tied off;  
Selvedges uneven where new threads come in;  
Slubs forgotten in the rush of life.

Spread out for someone else to value  
Or tumble in the corner.